

NETWORK ROUTING

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for employing a driver in a router to communicate between the router's operating system and network processor. The driver appears to the operating system as a device driver for a conventional network interface. The driver also registers with the network processor and appears itself as a forwarding interface. Control information received the network processor is forwarded to the operating system by way of the driver using the network processor's existing forwarding mechanisms, and control information from the operating system is sent to the network processor by way of the driver.